

CLAIMS

1 1. A system for managing parts requirements
2 processes in an engineering environment, comprising:
3 an enterprise system including:
4 a workstation;
5 a server;
6 a network connection for allowing said
7 workstation and said server to communicate; and
8 a storage device coupled to said workstation;
9 wherein said enterprise system is executing a bill
10 of material assist application for managing said parts
11 requirements processes.

1 2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a database of parts information.

1 3. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a database of procurement information.

1 4. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a database of computer aided drafting information.

1 5. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a database of approved vendors lists.

1 6. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a database of bill of material files.

1 7. The system of claim 2, wherein said database of
2 parts information is commercially provided, and wherein
3 said database of parts information is accessible to said
4 enterprise system by a communications link.

1 8. The system of claim 3, wherein said database of
2 procurement information is commercially provided, and
3 wherein said database of procurement information is
4 accessible to said enterprise system by a communications
5 link.

1 9. The system of claim 4, wherein said database of
2 computer aided drafting information is commercially
3 provided, and wherein said database of computer aided
4 drafting information is accessible to said enterprise
5 system by a communications link.

1 10. A method for managing parts requirements
2 processes in an engineering environment via a bill of
3 material assist application, comprising:
4 importing component parts data listed on a bill of
5 material to said bill of material assist application;
6 mapping said component parts data to associated data
7 fields provided by said bill of material assist
8 application;
9 aggregating information from a plurality of sources
10 and correlating said information to said components parts
11 data; and
12 providing results of said correlating said
13 information in a summary form to a user of said bill of
14 material assist application.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 modifying said component parts data on said bill of
3 material by said user in response to reviewing said
4 results of said correlating said information.

1 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 generating an approved vendor list indicating
3 approved sources of component supply for items on said
4 bill of material; and
5 comparing approved vendors on said approved vendor
6 list for alternative sources of said component supply.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising
2 modifying said bill of material list based upon said
3 comparing.

1 14. The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 transferring said bill of material list to relevant
3 entities for review or approval.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising
2 modifying said bill of material list based upon said
3 review or said approval.

1 16. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 transferring said bill of material list to said
3 user; and
4 transferring said bill of material list to at least
5 one of said relevant entities.

1 17. The method of claim 10, wherein said importing
2 said component parts data to said bill of material assist
3 application is performed manually by said user.

1 18. The method of claim 10, wherein said importing
2 said component parts data to said bill of material assist
3 application is performed electronically via said bill of
4 material assist application whereby said component parts
5 data is stored in a database accessed by said user.

1 19. The method of claim 10, wherein said plurality
2 of sources include:
3 at least one parts database;
4 at least one procurement database;
5 at least one computer aided drafting database;
6 at least one approved vendors database; and
7 external supplier databases.

1 20. The method of claim 10, wherein said
2 aggregating information includes data pertaining to:
3 lead time;
4 currently supply status;
5 single or multiple source;
6 end of life date; and
7 preferredness rating.

1 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising data
2 pertaining to:
3 map flags;
4 life cycles;
5 duplicate local part numbers;
6 local part numbers;
7 part descriptions;
8 leaf class description;
9 messages;
10 supplier names;
11 supplier part numbers;
12 alternative local part numbers;
13 quantities;
14 data providers;
15 engineering changes;
16 engineering statuses;
17 technical usage codes;
18 engineers names;
19 supply statuses;
20 restricted usage codes;
21 end of life dates;
22 lead times;
23 part sourcing statuses;
24 reference designators;
25 commodities; and
26 comments desired by a system user.

1 22. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable
2 computer program code for managing parts requirements
3 processes in an engineering environment via a bill of
4 material assist application, the storage medium including
5 instructions for causing a computer to implement a method
6 comprising:

7 importing component parts data listed on a bill of
8 material to said bill of material assist application;

9 mapping said component parts data to associated data
10 fields provided by said bill of material assist
11 application;

12 aggregating information from a plurality of sources
13 and correlating said information to said components parts
14 data; and

15 providing results of said correlating said
16 information in a summary form to a user of said bill of
17 material assist application.

1 23. The storage medium of claim 22, further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to
3 implement:

4 modifying said component parts data on said bill of
5 material by said user in response to reviewing said
6 results of said correlating said information.

1 24. The storage medium of claim 22, further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to
3 implement:
4 generating an approved vendor list indicating
5 approved sources of component supply for items on said
6 bill of material; and
7 comparing approved vendors on said approved vendor
8 list for alternative sources of said component supply.

1 25. The storage medium of claim 24, further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to
3 implement:
4 modifying said bill of material list based upon said
5 comparing.

1 26. The storage medium of claim 22, further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to
3 implement:
4 transferring said bill of material list to relevant
5 entities for review or approval.

1 27. The storage medium of claim 26, further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to
3 implement:
4 modifying said bill of material list based upon said
5 review or said approval.

1 28. The storage medium of claim 22, further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to
3 implement:
4 transferring said bill of material list to said
5 user; and
6 transferring said bill of material list to at least
7 one of said relevant entities.

1 29. The storage medium of claim 22, wherein said
2 importing said component parts data to said bill of
3 material assist application is performed manually by said
4 user.

1 30. The storage medium of claim 22, wherein said
2 importing said component parts data to said bill of
3 material assist application is performed electronically
4 via said bill of material assist application whereby said
5 component parts data is stored in a database accessed by
6 said user.

1 31. The storage medium of claim 22, wherein said
2 plurality of sources include:
3 at least one parts database;
4 at least one procurement database;
5 at least one computer aided drafting database;
6 at least one approved vendors database; and
7 external supplier databases.

1 32. The storage medium of claim 22, wherein said
2 aggregating information includes data pertaining to:
3 lead time;
4 currently supply status;
5 single or multiple source;
6 end of life date; and
7 preferredness rating.

1 33. The storage medium of claim 22, further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to
3 implement providing data pertaining to:
4 map flags;
5 life cycles;
6 duplicate local part numbers;
7 local part numbers;
8 part descriptions;
9 leaf class description;
10 messages;
11 supplier names;
12 supplier part numbers;
13 alternative local part numbers;
14 quantities;
15 data providers;
16 engineering changes;
17 engineering statuses;
18 technical usage codes;
19 engineers names;
20 supply statuses;
21 restricted usage codes;
22 end of life dates;
23 lead times;
24 part sourcing statuses;
25 reference designators;
26 commodities; and
27 comments desired by a system user.